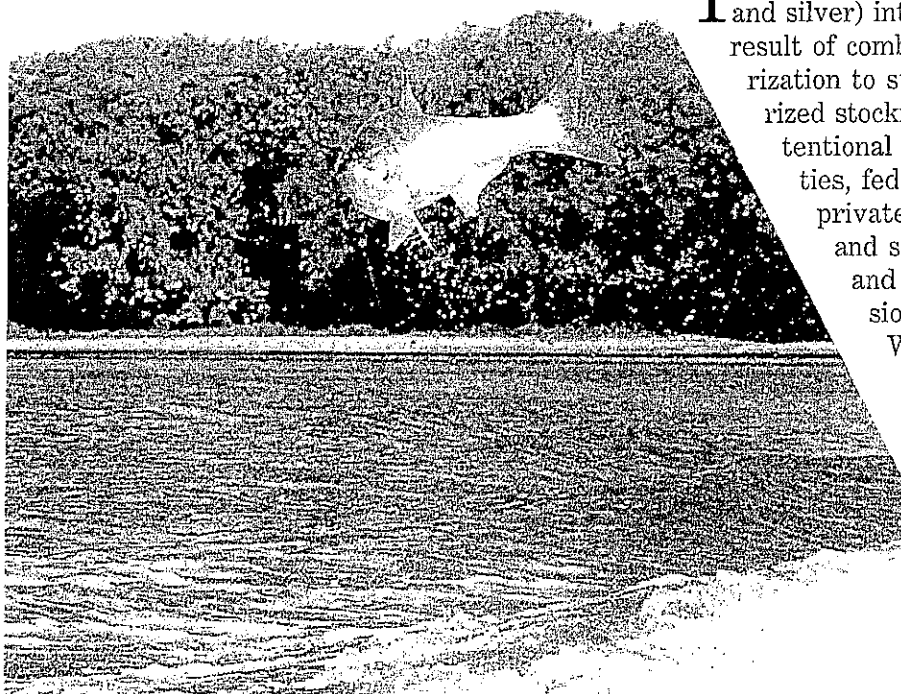


The Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States

History and Current Status of Asian Carps in the United States:



-The State Journal Sentinel/Chris Young

An invasive silver carp leaps out of the boat wake on the Illinois River.

Introductions of Asian carps (bighead, black, grass and silver) into waters of the United States are the result of combinations of 1) direct stockings, or authorization to stock, by various agencies; 2) unauthorized stockings by private individuals; and 3) unintentional escapes from university research facilities, federal and state agency facilities, and private aquaculture operations. Bighead, grass and silver carp are self-sustaining in the wild, and risk is high for continued range expansion within the Mississippi River basin.

While there is no evidence that black carp are self-sustaining, they have been collected in several locations of the Mississippi River basin. Densities of Asian carps in parts of the Mississippi River basin are thought to be among the highest in the world. In addition, Great Lakes fishery management agencies are concerned about the risk of Asian carps invading and becoming established in that watershed.

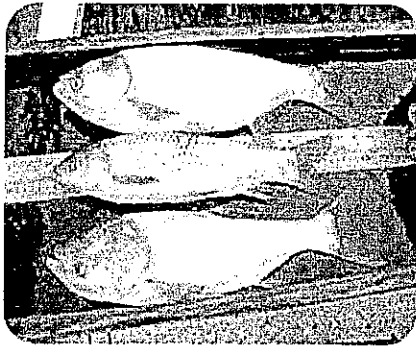
History of the Management and Control Plan:

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Executive Secretary requested that the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) lead development of a national management and control plan for Asian carp. The Midwest Region led formation of the ANSTF's Asian Carp Working Group (Working Group), comprised of a team of representatives from state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and stakeholders. The Working Group developed the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* (Plan), which was approved by the ANSTF in November 2007 and can be viewed at the following website: http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Carps_Management_Plan.pdf.



-USFWS

Dozens of invasive silver carp leap out of the boat wake near the Starved Rock State Park on the Illinois River, demonstrating the potential danger to recreational boaters.



-Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency/
Bill Reeves

Three Species of Asian Carps
(Top to bottom) Silver carp, grass carp, bighead carp.



Black Carp



-USFWS

Hundreds of invasive silver carp leap into the air on the Illinois River after a paddlewheeler passes by.



-USFWS

Jerry Rasmussen holds a large bighead carp captured in the Mississippi River basin.

Highlights of the Plan:

The ultimate goal of the Plan is to eradicate these species from the wild. To achieve that goal, the Working Group recommended that 133 actions be implemented during the next 20 years. Recommended actions focused on: 1) containment, 2) controlling abundance and extirpating wild fish, 3) minimizing impacts, 4) education and outreach, 5) research, and 6) adaptively managing the control program.

Summary:

The challenge of managing the threat of Asian carps in America's waters requires quick action. Delaying implementation of the Plan will enable Asian carps to spread further, resulting in increased costs and environmental impacts. One of the guiding principals for implementing this Plan is that all activities will be conducted in an effective, efficient and environmentally sound manner to conserve native species and benefit the American people. The Service and its partners recognize that containment and control of these introduced species is a key priority to help conserve, protect and restore fisheries within the waters of the Upper Midwest.

Plan Implementation

Plan implementation is beginning. Initial steps are to:

- Establish a regional lead within the Service to lead partner efforts when implementing the Plan
 - The Service's Midwest Region has been directed to lead these efforts.
- Assign a full time coordinator.
 - A coordinator has recently been hired, and is carrying out responsibilities.
- Form Implementation Team composed of key partners and stakeholders.
 - Several models of the implementation are being evaluated. A decision on the structure for this team is expected in the near future.
- Prioritize the 133 implementation recommendations.
 - The Implementation Team will review those recommendations, consider updates and decide which ones to implement first.
- Determine available resources to complete priority recommendations, and develop funding initiatives and budget planning to address unmet needs.
 - Some recommendations will be implemented immediately using existing agency staff and fiscal resources, whereas other recommendations will be implemented when additional resources are allocated.

For information about the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* contact:

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or visit the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force website to view the plan at:

http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Carps_Management_Plan.pdf

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